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# BEIJING TODAY

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## SILK ROAD SCENES

TWENTY YOUNG CHINESE ARTISTS ARE FOLLOWING IN  
THE FOOTSTEPS OF ANCIENT MERCHANTS TO REVIVE  
THE SILK ROAD. P.4



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# ENTERTAINMENT



## Mr. Tumor Offers Laughter and Tears

BY DIAO DIAO



CFP Photos

**K**orean romance writers have a strange affinity for killing off their female leads with cancer. You'd think leukemia was as common as plastic surgery.

But Chinese audiences have been losing their taste for these cliche stories that flooded the country during the last decade's "Korea Wave." The recent film *Go Away, Mr. Tumor* turns Korea's favorite trope upside down by depicting a Chinese girl fighting non-Hodgkin's lymphoma - with optimism.

And the kicker is that, for the most part, it's real.

The movie is based on the life and death of Xiong Dun, a cartoonist born in 1982. She loves bears and Isaac Newton and always draws herself with bear ears in her cartoon books.

She was a little-known online cartoonist who drew a few popular comics before 2011, the year she was found passed out on the floor and naked.

Weeks of tests revealed that Xiong was dying of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

But even after receiving that bad news, Xiong remained an imaginative person who drew pictures about mature women and their love affairs, the challenge of renting a house and the struggle for independence.

Chemotherapy, radiotherapy, pain, fear of death and grief didn't stop Xiong from smiling and enjoying life.

Xiong started recording her sickness in the comic series *Go Away, Mr. Tumor*, which poked fun at her crush

on a handsome doctor and insistence at wearing makeup even after she lost all her hair.

Her comic was published on Sina Weibo and Tianya BBS in 2012, and her funny style and optimism attracted and inspired many Chinese celebrities. Xiong never sought sympathy even though she knew her disease was terminal.

In the summer of 2012, film producers found Xiong in the hospital and talked about shooting a movie based on her comic. Xiong asked to participate in the production but died that same winter.

Her final Sina Weibo post was a silly message about how her mom tried to force her friend to wear more clothes.

*Go Away, Mr. Tumor* finished filming in 2014 and debuted in theaters on Aug. 13 this year. It generally avoided playing up Xiong Dun's experiences and personal life in its marketing.

Some viewers went to the cinema just to see Daniel Wu, the movie's handsome lead from Hong Kong. But in the end Xiong's death moved almost every viewer to tears.

Many films are based on the lives of people who die under tragic circumstance. Most end up using that death as their main selling point.

Producer Li Liangwen said Xiong wanted to see a movie that encouraged people to stay optimistic. Li said a portion of the film's proceeds would be donated to the Xiong Dun Sun Fund, a fund created by Xiong Dun to support other sick people. ■

## Colorful Language Blurs the Message of Lejia's Color Theory Book

BY DIAO DIAO

**S**ince making a name for himself as a guest consultant on the popular dating show *You Are the One*, Lejia has expanded into roles as a host, speaker and author. He's also an instructor and guest professor at Wuhan University and the Shanghai Theatre Academy.

Most of Lejia's books promote his Four-colors Personality Analysis system, and *To the Single You*, published in August, is no exception.

The book is split into four basic parts that purport to explain the four stages in relationship. While it claims to be

teaching its readers how to find their soul mate, it's really teaching readers about themselves.

But compare to Lejia's earlier books that contained graphic descriptions of his sexual exploits, *To the Single You* attempts to impart some useful knowledge.

Four-colors Personality Analysis attempts to pigeonhole human characteristics into the colors red, green, blue and yellow.

We're not sure what color Lejia really is. It might be whichever is most successful at losing fans and readers.

After acknowledging a 17-year-old

daughter he never knew he had and divorcing his wife, Lejia's TV antics have cast a dark shadow over his world of color.

On a recent *Super Speaker* aired June 6, Lejia stormed the studio with two bottles of strong baijiu and forced a disabled speaker to drink with him. When the other judges tried to step in, Lejia lapsed into shouting, cursing and exaggerated gestures that scared the audience and emptied the studio.

His defenders claim that's just the Lejia brand, and that couched within his offensive actions was a touching and inspiring speech. ■

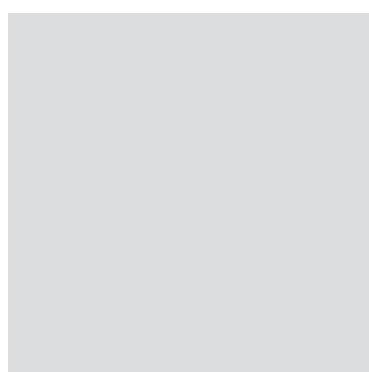


Photo by blog.sina.com

# MUSIC



Photos by Chen Hanrang



# Tongzigu Band: Beating Dreams Out of Paint Buckets

BY DIAO DIAO

**A**s amazingly punk as "Paint Bucket Drums" might sound, Tongzigu is more than a mere clever name: it's the band's equipment list.

Chen Hanrang and his friends started their band in 2011 with only three plastic paint buckets, a cheap guitar and an old bass.

The drumsticks were wooden dowels wrapped in scrap cloth. The microphone was held onto a tripod with duct tape. An old stainless steel basin and a clay pot stood in for the hi-hat. The bells and chimes were made out of bottle caps.

It's hard to imagine how such a band can survive, let alone find an audience, but somehow the musicians have made it work.

Although popularly known as the Migrant Worker Band, Chen and his cohorts are college graduates working as programmers, guards and bakers. All chose the hard road of making a career in music.

Early performances were limited to the street and underground passages, Chen's home turf as an aspiring singer.

Chen began singing in underground passages in 2009. Police arrested him for disturbing public order only days before Tongzigu's first show.

"I was let out a few days before the show," Chen said. "Luckily we did a good job. People liked our performance in spite of our simple instruments."

Chen plays drum in the band. Born to a poor family, Chen quit studying after primary school and began working to save money for his brothers' tuition. He worked as a toilet

cleaner, chef and deliveryman, and for some time was sleeping under bridges.

But the call of music moved Chen to blow a month's pay – 500 yuan – on his first guitar. Over the years he taught himself to play, and then volunteered to teach children whom the Sichuan earthquake had displaced.

"I spent a half year in Sichuan province. The children really motivated me to keep on my dream no matter what happened," Chen said.

Chen always believed life would improve if he never gave up – it just took longer than he imagined.

After returning to Beijing, Chen started to look for a job in a bar. He sang two songs for one bar owner before being directly refused.

"He told me any random person he pulled off the street would sing better than I could. I was so depressed," Chen said. "To make ends meet I started working as a stuntman at Beijing Film Studio."

In those days, 1 yuan could cover a day's meals.

Chen decided to go back to Shanghai where he had a job. "Shanghai is where I can make a living; Beijing is where I can chase my dreams," Chen said.

Huang Yongling also faced a similar choice. After graduating with a degree in computing from China University of Geosciences, Huang says he received an offer for a job that paid almost 10,000 yuan a month. He refused and instead bought a guitar to sing in the city's tunnels.

"I thought I could make a living by singing, but I had to admit I failed once I was starving. I still don't regret my choice though," Huang said.

Tongzigu has lost several of its members, though Chen Hanrang and Huang Yongling live on in the bar circuit. They are being invited to different cities and more and more people are learning about their music and story.

While recent gigs have given the band enough money to afford new instruments, they've decided to stick with their old paint buckets as a talisman of harder times. ■

## LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

### Zhang Ling @ Mako Live

Zhang Ling is one of the top names in Chinese blues. He began his love for the blues in the 1980s when China was becoming saturated with rock. Zhang left to study music abroad and returned with a mature sound on *Made in China*, an album that combines jazz, blues and Beijing-style waltz.

⌚ 9-11 p.m., Aug. 29  
📍 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang  
🎫 120 yuan (pre sale), 150 yuan (at door)

### Liu Donghong @ Lanxi Bar

Liu Donghong is one of the representatives of China's rock scene. His first album, *Stars On My Head*, was regarded as sharp, romantic and sensitive. His new album, *A World That Has Become Fairytale*, is more mature. Liu Donghong and his Sand Band will be performing at Lanxi Bar.

⌚ 9:30-11:30 p.m., Aug. 29  
📍 183 JiugulouDajie, Xicheng  
🎫 50 yuan (pre sale), 60 yuan (at door)

### Excuse Me @ Yugong Yishan

Excuse Me consists of Chen Junhao and Miko. Chen is good at guitar, keyboard, drums, writing, composition, production and music video production. Miko is good at writing, composition, design, dancing and performance. They ranked 5th in the TV music competition *Duets* and were the people's champion in the 2015 *Dream Maker* competition. Excuse Me's original album, *Exit* will be released nationwide in August-September.

⌚ 8:30-10:30 p.m., Aug. 29  
📍 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng  
🎫 80 yuan (pre sale), 100 yuan (at door)

### Hadi Eldebek Trio @ DDC Club

The Hadi Eldebek Trio presents an age-old heritage and transcendent art of poetry and music from the Arab World. The trio's music captivates the ear and the soul, and presents a musical tradition of Maqam and rhythm.

Their repertoire focuses on Arabic music from the Levantine and Egypt, as well as from other countries in the Arab World like Tunisia, Morocco and the Arabic Peninsula. Hadi Eldebek is a composer from Beirut, Lebanon. He studied with oud and violin master Simon Shaheen and is a member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble. Hadi Eldebek will be joined on stage by Ramzi Edelbi (percussion) and Mohamad Eldebek (percussion).

⌚ 9-11 p.m., Aug. 29  
📍 14 ShanlaoHutong, Dongcheng  
🎫 63 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)



# ARTISTS

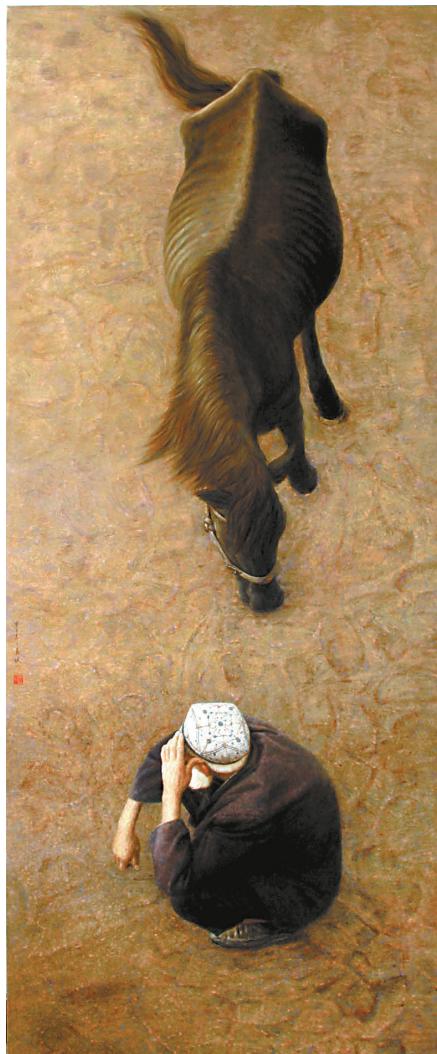


Circumstance

## Scenes Along the Silk Road



One Day Be Forgotten



The Remotest Corner in the World

BY SHU PENGQIAN

In 139 BC, Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty dispatched his envoy Zhang Qian to explore the "Western Regions," the vast lands beyond the Yumen Pass. Zhang's epic trip laid the foundation for an ancient trade route remembered today as the Silk Road.

But the days when vast caravans crossed the harsh terrain have long since passed.

But 20 young Chinese artists are following in the footsteps of ancient merchants to revive the ancient road on its branch that passes through the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

"Our group travelled many places along Tianshan Mountain, such as Sayram Lake, Bayinbuluke Prairie and Turpan City," says Li Huaqi, one of the artists in the group. "It was my first time going there. I've forgotten some of the places' names, but Xinjiang's local customs are still fresh in my memory."

Before coming to Xinjiang, Li always thought the region was full of mystery and danger. But in the months from June to September 2013, he found his imagination was all wrong.

"Only when people come in person can they understand how beautiful Xinjiang is," Li says.

Li recorded what he saw and heard during the trip with his paintbrush and assembled the finished paintings in his *Stories on the Silk Road* series. Three of the paintings titled *Tajik Bridesmaid* feature Tajik girls in similar dresses and adornments.

"The three paintings were inspired by another *Tajik Bride*, a painting by Jin Shangyi in 1983," Li says. "To emphasize the wedding theme, I strengthened the contrast between brightness and shadow and stressed the red color."

But his works capture more than colorful ethnic costumes: Li's paintings capture

gestures and greetings.

In *Receiving Friends*, two women in minority dress are seen kissing each other on the cheek. In Tajik customs, such kisses are a polite greeting that is reserved for women.

Older and younger women have their own greetings as well, Li says. "The elder kisses the younger on the eyes or forehead, and the younger kisses the palm of the elder female's hands."

Such greetings are complex but sincere, he says. It is a warmth often missing in the big city.

The sight of grazing sheep and an old herdsman merged with the story of Su Wu herding sheep to inspire another of Li's paintings, *Search Su Wu's Trace*. Su Wu was a Han statesman sent to negotiate with the Xiongnu tribes. When negotiations ended and Su was preparing to return home, the Xiongnu captured him and forced him to work as a shepherd for 19 years.

Li is also working on a series of paintings titled *Metropolis*, which takes women as its primary subject. His style favors soft and delicate things, and the female disposition possesses both.

The only men in the series are seen sleeping in *Circumstance* and *One Day Be Forgotten*. Both are seen sleeping like logs and are too tired to realize their quilts have slipped. Dim lights, unshaved faces and cheap camp bed suggest the two struggle with poverty.

"The two pictures portray the true conditions of young Chinese artists: live in poverty or have an unstable life," Li says. "In China, being an artist means you choose a profession with no guarantee. It's hard for Chinese artists to develop further."

When asked how Chinese artists can extricate themselves from such a difficult position, Li gives an ambiguous answer: "Work on your skill in painting." ■

The Artist  
Li Huaqi

Receiving Friends

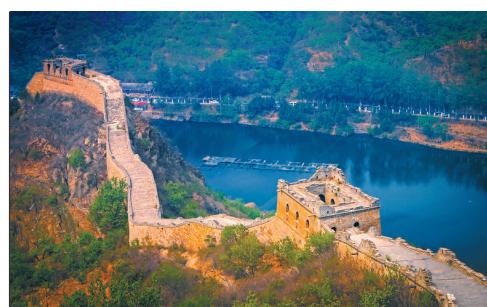


Tajik Bridesmaid



# Great Hikes Around Beijing

BY MING LAN

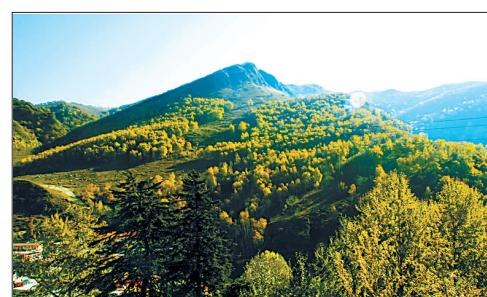


## Adventure Mode: The 'Wild' Great Wall

You might have already been to the Great Wall if you've lived in Beijing for a while, but probably not to its unrestored, visitor-free stretches.

Lonely Planet recommends five stretches of the "Wild" Great Wall to adventurous travelers. Two are close to Beijing. The first starts at Ox Horn and ends at Mutianyu, and it's a strenuous, 7-kilometer hike along a crumbling wall and through lovely pine forests.

The second starts at Zhuangdaokou Village and ends at the Waterside Great Wall. The hike starts on a steep, shrub-covered section of the wall, but the effort is rewarded at the Waterside Great Wall, a restored section of the wall with gorgeous views of a water reservoir.



## Nature Mode: Lingshan Mountain

Lingshan is the highest mountain in Beijing, reaching 2,300 meters in elevation. Its vast alpine meadows resemble a lush green carpet, occasionally dotted with white sheep.

The mountain is a haven for vegetation and animals. As you hike up the mountain, the vegetation changes from clovers, azaleas, hazels and birch trees to Siberian-type tundra. Expect to spot foxes, squirrels, hares, wild goats and brown-eared pheasants.

Temperatures on the mountaintop are 12 C lower than in downtown Beijing.

A Tibetan folklore festival takes place on the mountain every July and August. Visitors can taste traditional Tibetan food and enjoy songs and dances.

## Mixed Mode: Mangshan National Forest Park

If you want a challenging hike that includes nature, history and spirituality, try Mangshan National Forest Park. *Time Out Beijing* called it "arguably the most beautiful" national forest park in Beijing.

It's also the largest.

The park was named for the adjoining mountain range, which snakes across the landscape like a python. Next to the park entrance is a massive Maitreya Buddha statue, standing 10 meters tall and containing 1,500 tons of granite. A thin trail behind the courtyard cuts through the Health Forest, among wild flowers and shrubs.

Follow the signs to the climbing steps for a 1,299-step trek – the longest in Beijing. If you make it to the top, you'll be rewarded by a magnificent view of the mountain.

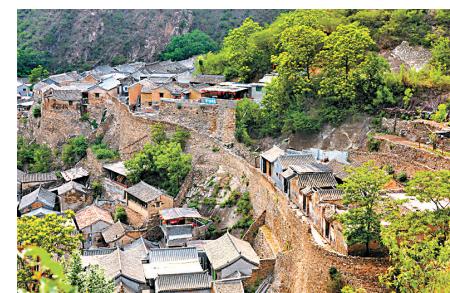


## History Mode: Cuandixia and Baiyu

Cuandixia and Baiyu are two villages from the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) on the west side of Beijing. History lovers can explore the ancient villages and their surroundings on a day trip or spend the night at a guesthouse and sleep on a traditional *kang* bed.

Of the two, Cuandixia is the best preserved, and it is sometimes referred to as a "living museum." Surrounding villages, including Baiyu, were destroyed almost completely during the Japanese war. Cuandixia Village, Baiyu Village and Tianjin Pass used to be part of an important military area.

From Cuandixia Village, visitors can



walk about 5 kilometers north to Baiyu Village, named for cypress trees that used to grow in the area.

Huangcaoliang Mountain is located north of the village and is a great place for hiking and camping.



Several hiking clubs operate trips around Beijing. Here are a few:  
[Beijing Hikers](http://beijinghikers.com) ([beijinghikers.com](http://beijinghikers.com))

[China Travellers](http://chinatravellers.com) ([chinatravellers.com](http://chinatravellers.com))  
[Meet Up](http://meetup.com) ([meetup.com](http://meetup.com))  
[China Hiking](http://chinahiking.cn) ([chinahiking.cn](http://chinahiking.cn))

CFP Photos

## Spiritual Mode: Silver Mountain and Pagoda Forest

Nearly 1,400 years ago during the Tang dynasty, a Buddhist temple was built on Silver Mountain, some 48 kilometers north of Beijing's city center. Now, the temple is a romantic ruin, overlooked by seven pagodas that date back to the Jin dynasty some 900 years ago.

In 1125, the area was expanded to include 72 temples, 72 pagodas, 72 wells, 72 stonewalls and 72 stone mills, but few survived both World War II and the Cultural Revolution.

Silver Mountain Pagoda Forest is framed by Silver Mountain. The mountain got its name from the color frost gives its moss-blackened, granite peaks during winter.

Behind the ruins, several flights of stairs take visitors on trails leading to the summit, which can be reached after an intense hour-long hike. About halfway up the mountain is a Preaching Platform. There is also a waterfall along with a boulder called Ancient Buddha Rock.



## Men and Women

BY QU CHAONAN

**Zhí Nǚ Ái (直女癌)**

Zhí Nǚ means young girl, but Zhí Nǚ Ái is an expression that describes women of all ages. Zhí Nǚ Ái dream of tall, rich, handsome and romantic lovers who come pick them up on a white horse (or a fast car). When those daydreams don't materialize, they pour their passion into TV dramas such as the popular *Silent Separation*.

Compared to girls who think they are princesses, Zhí Nǚ Ái may be less fussy and aggressive. But diehard Zhí Nǚ Ái may find it difficult to get married because their ideal lover only exists in books or on screens.

**Zhí Nán Ái (直男癌)**

Zhí Nán means straight guy, and Ái literally translates into cancer, but the phrase means being a dominant male who wants to protect women and always be right.

Zhí Nán Ái lack a sense of fashion, and they don't care about how they look. They think women should stick to their traditional roles, such as cooking, housekeeping and raising children.

If Zhí Nán Ái don't know or understand something, they will say it's wrong because they are the sole keepers of the truth. Their only soft spot is their mothers, and they love to use the phrase, "my mom says." They always listen to their mothers and set them as examples for their wives.

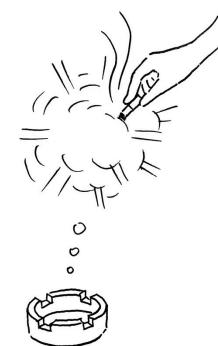
**Mǎ Lì Sū (玛丽苏)**

Mǎ Lì Sū, also called Mary Sue, is the object of writers' desires. In books or TV dramas, they are the girls who are kind, smart and beautiful. In other words, Mǎ Lì Sū is a perfect girl who is loved by everyone. They can be either rich or poor but are certain to end up in a happy romantic relationship. Female characters in Taiwanese novelist Qiongyao's books are like that. As for the perfect men in books, they are called Tom Sue or Jack Sue. ■

(Qu Chaonan is an intern at Beijing Today.)



## WEEKLY TANGO



Tango

Tango studies at Tsinghua University's Academy of Art and Design. For more comics, follow his Sina Weibo feed at @tangocartoon.

## Ask Beijing Today

"Ask Beijing Today" is our weekly column that attempts to make life in China less confusing.

You can email your own questions to [ask@beijingtoday.com.cn](mailto:ask@beijingtoday.com.cn).

**Q. What's the deal with not getting paid on time in China?**

A. Due to various circumstances, some companies in China are not able to/won't pay their employees on time. People are generally unaware of the law regarding back wages and overtime pay, so it is often a case of information asymmetry between

the employees and the employers. If your employer consistently doesn't pay you on time, then you should make a note of each late payment – using your bank account statement – as evidence for any future legal action you may take.

**Q. I'm planning to take the GMAT exam this year, and I think I need to take a course. Is there any place in Beijing where I can study (in English) to prepare for the GMAT?**

A. You can call the Princeton Review Beijing office and see if they offer classes or find a smart Chinese student who aced

the test and have him or her tutor you for cheap or in exchange for English classes.

**Q. I'm looking for places where I can work and collaborate with other workers and entrepreneurs. Are there any such places in Beijing?**

A. You got it. Nowadays, more and more young people come to Beijing to start up their businesses. We recommend two famous entrepreneurship-themed coffee shops in Zhongguancun and Haidian districts – the paradise for startups in China: 3W Coffee and the Garage Cafe. Hope you can find some business partners there. ■

### THE BEIJING TODAY HUMOR

**Q. What's the difference between watching NBA and CBA?**

A. NBA: What? He scored? CBA: What? He missed it?

**Q. What is a love-struck couple?**

A. Two ordinary people who regard each other as the best and worry someone else might take the other away.

**Q. I kind of feel that Eastern wisdom is not such a big deal after watching American dramas.**

A. What you're seeing isn't a gap between Eastern and Western wisdom, but a gap between Chinese and American scriptwriters.

**Q. How can I overcome the fear of watching Chinese horror films alone?**

A. Use the Mute button.

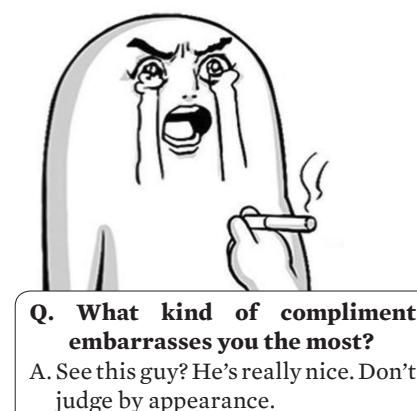
**Q. Why do architects believe in feng shui?**

A. Feng shui allows them to avoid customizing things for individual clients. (Context: Feng shui is a system of harmonizing buildings with the surrounding environment. Historically, it was widely used to orient buildings in an auspicious way.)

**Q. Why do some old people who fall try to frame whoever helps them up?**

A. They used to be bad people. Now they are old bad people. That's it.

(Questions selected from Zhihu.)


**Q. What kind of compliment embarrasses you the most?**

A. See this guy? He's really nice. Don't judge by appearance.


**Q. I had a fight with my girlfriend and she won't talk to me. How can I win her back?**

A. Smash a glass in front of her to express your anger. If that doesn't work, kneel on the broken glass. (Context: The last resort for a Chinese husband seeking forgiveness from an angry wife is to kneel on something and apologize.)


**Q. A girl who rejected me just showed up on my list of Twitter visitors. What does it mean?**

A. A touchscreen phone is probably to be blamed.

**Q. What was the most touching thing that happened during the 2014 World Cup?**

A. Suarez played on an empty stomach.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## ART



### Immortal Van Gogh

More than 3,000 of Van Gogh's paintings are being exhibited at Chaoyang Joy City, including such masterpieces as *The Starry Night*, *The Sower*, *Still Life: Vase with Twelve Sunflowers* and *The Cafe Terrace*. The paintings will be shown on huge canvases. If there's one art event you should attend this year, this is it.

- ⌚ 10 am-10:30 pm, multiple dates from September 8
- 📍 Joy City Chaoyang
- 📞 70 yuan/person; 200 yuan for 3 people



### Revealed: The World's Greatest Modern Artists

The photo exhibition Revealed is arriving in China for the first time to take an intimate look at the world's greatest modern artists. Curated by Olivier Widmaier Picasso, grandson of Pablo Picasso, the exhibition includes 30 photographs from the archives of *Paris Match*, the famous French magazine. Photographs include snapshots of Picasso, Dali, Koons, Van Dongen and Magritte in moments of inspiration.

The exhibition is hosted in association with Sofitel.

- ⌚ multiple dates from September 1
- 📍 Sofitel Wanda, Tower C, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang
- 📞 (010) 8599 6666

## CULTURE



### Taichi Taster Workshop

Ever wondered what real tai chi is about? Attend a taichi workshop on Sunday morning in Ritan Park.

Practiced soft and applied hard, Yang style is a form of tai chi suitable for self-defense, weight-loss and overall fitness.

Participants will learn a short form and movements, applications, theory and breathing exercises.

These regularly held, one-time workshops are suitable for tourists and residents alike. They do not require any previous experience in martial arts and are intended to serve as an introduction to this fascinating martial art.

- ⌚ 10 am-noon, August 30
- 📍 Ritan Park, 6 RitanBei Lu, Chaoyang
- 📞 250 yuan
- ✉️ taichi@culturalkeys.org



### Peking Opera Workshop

Peking opera is a rich Chinese cultural tradition. Knowing the history and background can make its performance more enjoyable to watch.

China Culture Center is inviting Peking opera actors to introduce the history, complexities and movements of their famous artform, as well as their pre-performance rituals and the meticulous process of preparing the iconic makeup.

The actors will perform selected scenes from Peking operas to illustrate its movements and gestures.

Bring a camera to record the colorful workshop experience.

- ⌚ 7-9 pm, August 30
- 📍 China Culture Center, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
- 📞 200 yuan
- 📞 (010) 6432 9341

## MUSIC



### Hadi Eldeebek World Exploration (US/Lebanon)

Hadi Eldeebek is an innovative, contemporary oudist from New York City.

As a singer and composer, Eldeebek has strived to perform with and lead dynamic collectives of musicians brought together by the shared joy of interpreting Arabic music through a contemporary and multi-genre perspective.

Eldeebek began his oud studies at the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music before moving to New York to continue his studies with master oud and violin player Simon Shaheen.

Since then, he has played with Indian, Japanese, Turkish and Greek groups. He has also collaborated with playwright Heather Raffo on the score for her play *9 Parts of Desire*.

Eldeebek joined the New York Arabic Orchestra at its launch in 2007, performing at such musical landmarks as the Symphony Space and Carnegie Hall.

In 2009, he became a teaching artist for Silk Road Connect, visiting New York City's public schools to educate youth about the oud and Arabic music.

- ⌚ 9-11 pm, August 29
- 📍 Dusk Dawn Club, 14 ShanlaoHutong, Dongcheng
- 📞 80yuan(door),60 yuan(presale)
- ✉️ Email:DuskDawnClub@gmail.com



### MUSE Live in Beijing 2015

Formed in Devon in the mid-1990s, MUSE's early material was likened to Radiohead. Their debut album *Showbiz* – which featured the hit singles "Sunburn" and "Unintended" – was a critical and commercial success.

Since then, the band has gone on to establish itself as one of the leading lights of British rock music. The trio are sure to be in fine form as they hit China just months after the release of their highly-anticipated seventh studio album *Drones*.

MUSE's increasingly extravagant and spectacular stadium concerts and festival performances have brought them considerable fame.

The band's use of imagery and special effects means they now have a reputation for creating some of the most memorable live experiences around – previous shows have featured pyramids of LED screens, central stages with the band surrounded by the crowd and acrobats suspended from hovering UFOs.

Given the band's live credentials and the fact that their MasterCard Center concert will come hot on the heels of their new album, MUSE's Beijing debut may be one of the year's top shows.

- ⌚ 8-10 pm, September 19
- 📍 MasterCard Center, 69 FuxingLu, Haidian District
- 📞 380 - 1,280 yuan
- 📞 (010) 6828 6326

## NIGHTLIFE



### InterNations 8th Anniversary: Night of the Year!

InterNations 8th Anniversary: The Night of the Year!

Join InterNations at 7 p.m. on Sept. 11 in the New World Hotel for the expat network's 8th anniversary.

The superb terrace of YIN on 12 at New World Hotel will welcome InternNations members with a customized menu and live music entertainment.

Get a welcome drink of your choice, midnight surprise and all-night discounts on food and drinks. Leave your work at the door and just relax, chill out, dance and sing!

- ⌚ 7 pm – 3 am, September 11
- 📍 Yin on 12, New World Beijing Hotel, 8 QinianJie, Dongcheng
- 📞 (010) 5960 8866
- ✉️ internationsbeijing@yahoo.com



# FOODS

## The Roots of Chinese Tea Culture

BY WANG YAN

In the first scene of Lao She's famous *Teahouse*, the writer laments how the novel's namesake location has become less common. The teahouse of old was a venue that would bring together bird lovers, socialites and businessmen to ruminant on the issues of the day.

*Teahouse* was a landmark work in Chinese literature – and one of the few stories that so perfectly captures the spirit of Chinese tea culture.

Chinese people are believed to have enjoyed tea since nearly 2,000 BC. The legendary ancient ruler Yan Di is recorded as tasting all kinds of herbs to find medical cures before stumbling on the tea plant.

For a long time, tea was only used as an herbal medicine. During the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046 – 771BC) it was a religious offering. Tea was used to aid

monks or priests in their long periods of meditation, and as a source of inspiration for poets.

During the Spring and Autumn Period (770–476BC), people began eating fresh tea leaves as vegetables. When Buddhism began to spread between the Three Kingdoms Era and the Northern and Southern Dynasties, tea's refreshing effect made it a favorite of Zen practitioners.

Tea as a drink prospered during the Tang Dynasty (618–907), and teashops became more common. One of the major works of this time was *The Classic of Tea*, a cornerstone of Chinese tea culture by Lu Yu, the Sage of Tea.

Lu's thoughts on tea became deeply rooted in classical Chinese culture. Perceived by peers of his time as having supernormal abilities with tea, Lu was regarded as the God of Tea. Lu started,



CFP Photos

as many of the tea masters of that time, as a monk in a monastery. But Lu was more interested in tea than sutras.

Tea culture in the Song Dynasty was marked as delicate and sumptuous. New skills led to many new ways to enjoy tea. But it was the Ming Dynasty that defined modern tea processing and drinking styles. By the late Ming, loose tea became more popular and attention to tea utensils increased.

During the Qing Dynasty folk arts entered the country's teashops, making them popular entertainment centers. In the late Qing Dynasty, when social conditions were chaotic, teahouses became places for people to exchange ideas.

In Chinese culture, tea is not just a type of leaves soaked in hot water to make a beverage: it is almost a spiritual journey. ■

## Tea History in the Huguang Guild Hall

BY WANG YAN



Beijing has no shortage of teahouses, but the Huguang Guild Hall is probably the oldest and most famous.

The Beijing Huguang Guild Hall was established in the 10th year of the reign of Emperor Jiaqing of the Qing Dynasty (1807 AD). It consists of a grand opera house and the Xiangxian Memorial Hall, Wenchang Pavilion, Baoshan Hall and Chuwan Hall.

It was once the gathering place of students from the provinces of Hunan and Hubei bound for imperial testing sites in Beijing, as well as the favored haunt of businessmen and cultural elites. The hall was noted for its profound cultural creations and excellent Beijing Opera culture tradition.

In 1912, the statesman Sun Yat-sen visited the Huguang Guild Hall five times to deliver political speeches. On Aug. 25, 1912, he presided over and held the Founding Conference of the Kuomintang.

During the years of the Republic of China, the Huguang Guild Hall was the favored stage of such opera masters as Tan Xinpei, Yu Shuyan and Mei Lanfang.

In order to support traditional opera research and popularization, the grand opera house reopened in the spring of 1996. Today, famous Peking opera performers come to the opera tower to perform almost every night. For those who want to have a taste of Beijing and Chinese culture while enjoying a cup of tea, the Huguang Guild Hall might be your best choice. ■

Photo by dianping.com

### Huguang Guild Hall

13 Hufang Lu, Xicheng District  
(010) 83551680



### MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

## Learn to Make Tea Porridge

BY WANG YAN

Tea is an important part of Chinese culture, where it is both consumed as a beverage and used as a cooking ingredient. In Zhejiang cuisine, tea is used for cooking shrimp and making porridge.

Chrysanthemum tea is very popular among Chinese people, and according to traditional medicine it can clear internal heat and bolster the lungs, liver, spleen and kidneys. The following recipe is easy to learn and will produce a savory porridge.

#### Ingredients:

- 100g Japanese rice
- 5g chrysanthemum tea
- 20g rock candy



Photo by tigercity.net

#### The Steps:

1. Clean the Japanese rice and soak it in cold water for 30 minutes. Drain thoroughly.
2. Add 1 liter of cold water to a wok. Stir in the Japanese rice and cook over a high flame. Stir for around 3 minutes before switching to a low flame.
3. Add the chrysanthemums to hot water to hydrate them.
4. Add the hydrated chrysanthemum tea and rock candy to the wok. Cook an additional 3 minutes and serve.